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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

May 3, 1965

DD/ST# 2062-65

NASA review completed.

Dr. Albert D. Wheelon  
Deputy Director  
Office of Deputy Director (Science & Technology)  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Bud:

I have been going over your letter of April 4, 1965, and feel that it provides a workable outline within which the technical strength of NASA can be brought to bear on problems of national importance. However, I feel there are several points that require verification before we take the final step of establishing these groups and their membership. First, I believe it is very important to identify carefully the specific and limited role that the panels are to play. The underlying problem in this area is the possibility that our technical personnel might become de facto working elements of a community for which they have inadequate training; as you know, our enabling legislation is specific on the subject of full disclosure of data. I therefore wonder whether it is appropriate for the panels to prepare written reports of their findings themselves, it perhaps being preferable to have your senior officer use the panel as a resource but retain the final responsibility for the documented output. We would prefer that the groups not be formally designated as NASA panels.

In addition, I feel that the size of the panels is perhaps too large; I think that a maximum of five or six per panel would be more manageable. In selecting personnel for the panels we would expect to use the intimate knowledge of individual capabilities that only our center directors have; they would therefore become involved themselves in this area of effort.

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GROUP 1

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Dr. Wheelon

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A third point is the special situation of JPL, a contract-operated laboratory. Although the major competence is there in the lunar and planetary area, I am certain that there should be one or two full-time senior NASA Headquarters personnel intimately involved in their activities.

While you are considering these points, we are proceeding with a preliminary plan for personnel selection; I am sure that we can establish a working relationship in the very near future along the general lines discussed between us.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Seamans, Jr.  
Associate Administrator

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DATE: 5 May 196

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*Office of the DD/S&T Task,*

*IYI*

TO: D. F. Chamberlain/OSI  
C. Duckett/FMSAC  
SUBJECT:  ADD/S&T

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REMARKS: For comments by 10 May 1965

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